

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 05504 220756Z

21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

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P R 220716Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1580

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5504

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS

SUBJECT: TRIAL OF REV. KIM KWAN-SOK

REF: SEOUL 4938

1. FOURTH SESSION OF TRIAL OF REV. KIM KWAN-SOK, SECRETARY GENERAL NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF KOREA AND THREE CO-DEFENDENTS WAS HELD JULY 19. SESSION DEVOTED CHIEFLY TO HEARING WITNESSES TESTIFY THAT KIM AND OTHERS EMBEZZLED CHURCH FUNDS WHICH WERE THEN USED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. ACCORDING TO NCCC-K SECRETARY WHO ATTENDED SESSION, DAY DID NOT GO WELL FOR PROSECUTION AS SHARP CROSS-EXAMINATION BY DEFENSE ATTORNEY LARGELY DISCREDITED TESTIMONY OF PROSECUTION WITNESSES. NEXT SESSION SET FOR JULY 25.

2. ULTIMATE OUTCOME OF KIM TRIAL REMAINS UNCERTAIN BECAUSE OF POLITICAL NATURE OF THE CHARGES. HOWEVER, KOREAN CHURCHMEN REMAIN OPTIMISTIC THAT KIM AND OTHERS WILL BE RELEASED SHORTLY AFTER THE TRIAL, PERHAPS AFTER BEING FOUND GUILTY AND THEN AMNESTIED.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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